

RE: US v HAFNER RECEIVED

19-790 (MAS)

JUL 26 2022

7/18/22

PAGE
SIDE
1 OF 2AT 8:30
WILLIAM T. WALSH
CLERK

* (Continued on other side)

Dear Judge:

A week before trial, I was unexpectedly moved from the Hudson County Jail to the Monmouth County Jail. I was thrown into solitary confinement 22 plus hours per day. Under the guise of a "14 day quarantine" despite the fact I tested negative for COVID-19 prior to leaving Hudson County. During this 14 day period, I had no access to any form of law library. Upon arriving at the Monmouth County Jail, my sleep medication was immediately discontinued for no reason. On the Saturday before trial (Tuesday), around 5:30pm during the limited time out-of-cell, another inmate (who was not out of his cell at that time) hung himself in A1(tier) cell 108. There was lots of commotion around his cell and the guard screamed for us to help her. I went and looked in the cell. I saw his motionless body hanging from a sheet wrapped around the light. I believe he was dead. Other inmates were trying to remove the sheet tied around his neck. Even when the EMTs removed him almost one hour later, he was still motionless. He clearly wasn't alive. I was shaken and traumatized from what I had witnessed. At the time the plea was

(Cont'd over →)

entered, I was sleep deprived, traumatized, and clearly not in a proper state of mind. Mr. Catanzaro had told me he would get me out of Monmouth County once the plea was entered. I didn't want to be in such a terrifying place. I am innocent all charges. I explained to Mr. Catanzaro that I am innocent numerous times, and gave very specific directions as to my defense. Mr. Catanzaro refused to defend me as requested. I wanted to represent myself at trial, but was not permitted to do so. Mr. Catanzaro acknowledged to me that his "trial strategy", which I did not agree with, was very poor. The plea agreement contained nothing to state that the plea would result in a waiver of pretrial motions. I noted this when speaking with Mr. Catanzaro, and he did not tell me otherwise. I believed I would still have the right to appeal these issues. Only later, after the plea was entered, did Mr. Catanzaro write to me and tell me he had since checked the law and that I couldn't. I wish to immediately withdraw the plea and proceed to trial. I demand a speedy and public jury trial. Thank you,

(cont'd from page 1) PAGE

ERIC HAFNER

ERIC HAFNER
57847 MCC1
1 WATERWORKS RD
FREEHOLD NJ 07728

DV DANIELS NJ 070

22 JUL 2022 PM 4:11

FOREVER
USA



[LEGAL
MAIL]

TO: RECEIVED

JUL 26 2022

AT 8:30
WILLIAM J. WALSH
JR

CLERK OF THE COURT
US DISTRICT COURT
402 E STATE ST
TRENTON NJ 08608

[LEGAL MAIL]

THE MONMOUTH COUNTY JAIL HAS
NEITHER CENSORED NOR INSPECTED
THIS ITEM. THEREFORE, THE SHERIFF'S
OFFICE DOES NOT ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS CONTENTS.



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